

June 18, 2010

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Walgreens to Remain in SEHP Pharmacy Network

Dispute with Caremark CVS Resolved

(TOPEKA) – State Employee Health Plan members who have their prescriptions filled at a Walgreens pharmacy will be able to continue doing so in the future.

Walgreens and CVS Caremark issued a <u>joint statement</u> today, announcing that they have reached an agreement on terms under which Walgreens will continue participating in the CVS Caremark pharmacy benefit management (PBM) national retail network for existing, new or renewal plans.

CVS Caremark serves under contract as the pharmacy benefit manager for the State Employee Health Plan. Earlier this month, CVS Caremark announced that effective July 9, 2010, Walgreens would no longer be part of the CVS Caremark network. That would have meant that State Employee Health Plan members no longer would have been able to have prescriptions filled at any Walgreens pharmacy.

"We're pleased that the two companies have reached an agreement, and that our members who use Walgreens pharmacies won't experience any disruption," said Doug Farmer, deputy director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority and director of the State Employee Health Plan.

In May, the Kansas Health Care Commission, which governs the State Employee Health Plan, voted to sign a new three-year contract with CVS Caremark to serve as pharmacy benefit manager of the health plan.

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